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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOL BOARD OFFICIAL
CHARGED WITH BANK FRAUD**

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that federal criminal charges were filed yesterday against former Baltimore City School Board official Lewis E. Williams, age 61, of Baltimore for bank fraud.

According to the complaint, Williams was an employee of the Baltimore City School Board for a period of time including April 2002 through October 2003. During that period, Williams was responsible for arranging for the rental of school facilities to civic or other organizations for events or meetings, and collecting payments from those organizations for the use of school buildings.

The complaint alleges that from April 2002 through August 2003, Williams devised a scheme to steal money intended for rental payments to the School Board in which Williams deposited a portion of the rental checks intended for the School Board into a bank account that he had opened for himself at Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company in the name of "L.E. Williams Enterprises." Williams allegedly deposited approximately \$220,000 into the account without the knowledge of the Baltimore City School Board. During the same period, Williams

wrote checks to

himself totaling approximately \$200,000 from the “L.E. Williams Enterprises” account to pay for various personal expenses.

“This office is committed to investigating and prosecuting fraud by public officials,” stated United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio.

Williams was arrested this morning in Fort Lauderdale, Florida where he will have his initial appearance today.

A complaint is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged with a crime by indictment or complaint is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

If convicted, Williams faces a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000,000.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the past several months and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hanlon